FINALISTS FOR THE 2025 SONGWRITING COMPETITION

for Awards presented Jan 20 2026

ALT BALLAD / ALT ROCK
Did We Quit Too Soon – Tina Pettaras
Livin' a Country Song – Jaxson Renshaw, Brendon Warmsley
Start Again – Pat Kenny, Kelsey Berrington
Storytellers – Bruce Mackay, Anthony Snape
Wildflowers – Ian Burns, Lyn Bowtell

COUNTRY ROCK
Collide – Shanleigh Carey
Make My Way – Amber Kenny, Lyn Bowtell
That Old Life – Catherine Lehnen, Michael Lehnen Lachlan Bryan
Pink Is My Colour – Coral Renee
Up On The Row – Pat Kenny

GOSPEL SPIRITUAL
Below An Open Sky – Brendon Walmsley
Broken – Brendon Walmsley, David Carter, Merleyn Carter
The River is Risin' – Kerrie Gambley
Sitting On Empty – Peter Shurley
Who's That Walking On The Water – Peter Shurley

LOCAL HEROES and EVENTS
Baby Goanna – Paul Ricketts, Lindsay Waddington
Behind the Scenes – Lloyd Back, Lindsay Waddington
If He Could Talk – Wendy Wood
The Horses Stay Behind (One Last Ride) – Kerrie Gambley
The Boy From Birchip – Matt Scullion

LYRICS ONLY
Can't Hold onto Time – Russell Leeming
I'm Coming Home – Mark Rigney
Kelly Dixon – Kevin Pye
This Old Dog of Mine – Kevin Pye
Who'll Sing Australia Now – Brooke Seabrook

NOVICE
Dusty Hill – Josephine Lemon, Ian Hallett
Goodbye Tula – Craig Wilson, Maria Kelsall
Singer of Renown – Len Conner, Colin Fraser
Still in Love – Guy Italiano
Stockman's Pirouette – Joy Hendon

YOUTH
Bloody Hands – Ellerie-Rose Armstrong-Kearns
I Thought I had it all figured out – Lucy Beveridge
Movie Of Us – Aaliah Skuse, Regan Farrell
When you Learn to Let go – Lucy Beveridge
Waiting On The Rain – Jack Gregory

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TRADITIONAL
Behind the Scenes – Lloyd Back, Lindsay Waddington
Golden Handcuffs – Matt Scullion
Road To Riverleigh – Brendon Walmsley
Saltbush Sally – Alice Benfer, Sam Hawksley
The Window Seat – Savannah Sharpe, Lyn Bowtell

COUNTRY BLUES
Everybody Knows Your Name – Lucie Tiger O'Connor
Festival Blues – Peter Campbell
Road Trip – Jeannie Kleynhans
Segregation Blues – Peter Campbell
Viking – Neil McCann, John Littrich

OPEN
Harvest Moon – Lucie Tiger O'Connor, Mark Narmore, Stephanie C. Brown
Love Can Fool You – Ava Bizzanelli, Allan Caswell
Moth To A Flame – Ava Bizzanelli
Skin And Bones – Janine Garvey, Janine Garvey, Eric Collier
What I Deserved – Beth Compton

BUSH BALLAD
Australia My Home – Katelann Grealy
Chasing Rabbits in Her Sleep – Terry Bennets
Dead Man's Hill – Peter Coad
My Country My Australia – Kathy Carver, Clem O'Dea
Singer of Renown – Len Conner, Colin Fraser

NEW SONGWRITER of the YEAR
Barefoot On The Dirt – Paul Ricketts
Beautiful Girl – Tina Pettaras
Flowers – Crystal Robins
Masquerade – Coral Renee
Vase – Tamsin Lancaster

COUNTRY SONG of the YEAR
Presented at the awards show

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